

Bob Johnson was to Texas State government what great teachers are to schools.

He taught hundreds, perhaps thousands, of legislators, their staff members, and other State officials the importance of learning well, of studying hard, of playing by the rules, of keeping one's word, of surviving defeat, and of winning gracefully.

Bob Johnson was a teacher, a counselor, and a friend.

He was as honest and sincere in his advice to those with whom he disagreed as he was to those with whom he agreed—to Democrats and Republicans, liberals and conservatives. And his advice was consistently excellent on matters of policy, procedure, and law. He was a pro.

He was patient beyond measure in counseling the young, whether they were staffers fresh from college or novice legislators. He valued loyalty and straightforwardness.

Bob Johnson was big and tough. But he was both a gentleman and a gentle man.

When Bob Johnson retired from government service in 1980, only to be lured back in 1991 by his dear friend of 40 years, Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock, the *Houston Chronicle* reported:

No one could say of Bob Johnson that he sat on the sidelines and watched life go by. He may be one of the wailing testimonies to the Madison Avenue phrase that you only go around once in life, so grab for the gusto.

He's a ditch digger turned truck driver turned football player turned professional rodeo cowboy turned legislator turned parliamentarian and legislative staff member and, soon, turned lawyer-lobbyist.

Not to mention farmer, rancher, hunter and all around gusto-grabber.

Governor Bullock and others with whom he served in the Texas Legislature from 1957 to 1963 called him Brother. And he was a brother to so many in every sense. Many of us who met him later looked upon him as a father-figure and mentor. Some called him Big Daddy.

Even today, as he is laid to rest in the Texas State Cemetery beside some of the most renowned figures in Texas history, it is hard not to smile when I think of Bob Johnson lumbering over to me in the House Chamber, throwing an arm around my shoulder, chiding me gently or encouraging me in just the right way with caring charm and good natured wit.

Bob Johnson's name is not a name that is known to most Americans or even most Texans, but he has certainly earned a place in our history and in our hearts.

He was universally loved and respected. I will never forget him or that he taught and prodded me to do better in my job.

For almost 40 years, Bob Johnson was a fixture in the Texas Capitol.

He fit especially well in that colossal building, symbolic of our expansive State, both of which he deeply loved. He was a giant, large in stature and

huge in his contributions to his State and to those entrusted with making it work for the people.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman from Texas yield?

Mr. BRYANT of Texas. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I share his regret and appreciate the gentleman's remarks. I appreciate him giving me the minute left.

For 1 minute, let me say that the issue of Federal pensions is a serious issue, and it ought to be dealt with seriously.

In point of fact, we are at a time now where the majority party is proposing a major revision in the Federal employees' pension program with less than 2 days of hearings, a markup that was scheduled on the 3d or 4th or 5th day after the 2d day of hearings. That markup was adjourned without resolution and without any motions with reference to the proposal and has now gone directly to the Rules Committee in the Republican's tax package for the purposes of paying, as said by the chairman of the Committee on the Budget, Mr. KASICH, \$11 billion of the bill to cut taxes on wealthier Americans.

Now, the fact of the matter is what it does is it increases the taxes on average Americans who are Federal employees by approximately 10 percent. That is not fair.

Furthermore, it is my understanding the gentleman from Florida, the chairman of the committee, who is my friend and who has talked to me about this, wants to consider this matter in a responsible fashion.

I take him at his word. We ought to not have this in the tax package. We ought to take it out of the tax package. It is not necessary to fund the tax bill, and we ought to have hearings on it. We ought to come to grips with the facts on it. We ought to see who is correct, and then we ought to dispose of this issue.

I am not afraid, as an advocate of Federal employees, to look at the facts, to analyze the facts, and to argue what we ought to do to be fiscally responsible. But what I am an opponent of is rushing this to judgment which I think is very unfair, unwise, bad policy, and certainly is going to undermine the morale and the promise that we have to our Federal employees.

I understand the gentleman from Florida said that he did not want to undermine those who had given service to their Government. These folks have. To act in this precipitous fashion, in my opinion, respectfully to the gentleman from Florida, does in fact undermine our relationship to our employees. I would hope that we do not take this action.

I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding the time.

Mr. BRYANT of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM AND OVERSIGHT TO FILE REPORT ON H.R. 1345, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1995

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight may have until midnight tonight to file a report on H.R. 1345.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I rise to note that the minority is not going to object.

But let me say we do want to raise a serious issue, that although this has been discussed with the minority, and I know it would not have been brought up, I presume, without such discussion, this is a very unusual procedure to bring up a unanimous consent request other than for speaking time in the period of time for special orders.

The minority, and I speak specifically, for the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia [Ms. NORTON], does not want to slow up this legislation. This is obviously very important legislation. We understand the majority's moving this legislation. But we do want to register our concern that this unusual procedure be an exception and not a practice. We do not intend to object at this time.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, those comments are noted, and we appreciate the cooperation.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE JOHN R. KASICH, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable JOHN R. KASICH, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET,  
Washington, DC, March 29, 1995.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,  
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you pursuant to Rule L (50) of the Rules of the House that I have been served with a subpoena issued by the Municipal Court for Manville, New Jersey.

After consultation with the General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is not consistent with the privileges and precedents of the House.

Sincerely,

JOHN R. KASICH,  
Chairman.